



PRESS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**SHARON L. POTTER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

1125 Chapline Street, Federal Building, Suite 3000 ! Wheeling, WV 26003 ! (304) 234-0100 ! Contact: Fawn E. Thomas, Public Affairs Specialist

April 3, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Child Pornography Is Not a Victimless Crime

Three Sentenced on Child Pornography Charges

MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — Three individuals were sentenced on March 31, 2008, and April 1, 2008, in United States District Court in Martinsburg by Chief Judge John Preston Bailey.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that:

①NELSON J. SMITH, age 57, of Portsmouth, Virginia, was sentenced on April 1, 2008, to 108 months imprisonment to be followed by lifetime supervised release, pursuant to an earlier entered plea of guilty. SMITH entered a plea of guilty on December 11, 2007, to one count of an Indictment charging him with Transportation of Child Pornography by means of a computer on December 17, 2006. SMITH transmitted via the Internet multiple images of child pornography to a person that he believed to be a 14 year-old West Virginia girl. This person was, in fact, the undercover persona of a Hampshire County Sheriff's Office Deputy.

At the sentencing hearing, a child who was sexually exploited in the production of those images spoke to the Court through a Victim Impact Statement drafted by her mother. The Statement very poignantly addressed the fact that child pornography is not a victimless crime.

SMITH is currently free on bond and will self-report to a designated federal institution.

This Crimes Against Children Task Force case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Perri and was investigated by the Hampshire County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- MORE -

PRESS RELEASE

Page 2

April 3, 2008

② JASON DAVID MAHONEY, age 27, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, was sentenced on March 31, 2008, to 70 months imprisonment to be followed by 10 years supervised release, pursuant to an earlier entered plea of guilty. MAHONEY entered a plea of guilty on October 22, 2007, to one count of an Information charging him with knowing attempted receipt of child pornography. MAHONEY utilized the United States Postal Service to place in the mail two separate orders for DVDs/videos containing child pornography between March 12, 2007, and April 30, 2007. The materials he purchased were delivered to his residence on May 31, 2007, and retrieved through a search warrant executed by law enforcement officers.

MAHONEY is currently free on bond and will self-report to a designated federal institution.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erin K. Reisenweber. The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the United States Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

③ LORENZO LEAK, age 55, of Jefferson, Maryland, was sentenced on April 1, 2008, to 70 months imprisonment to be followed by 10 years supervised release and was ordered to pay a fine of \$12,500.00 and restitution in the amount of \$13,509.77, pursuant to an earlier entered plea of guilty. LEAK entered a plea of guilty on January 14, 2008, to one count of an Indictment charging him with possession of child pornography. Specifically, LEAK used his government computer at the United States Post Office to access the internet and download child pornography.

LEAK is currently free on bond and will self-report to a designated federal institution.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Paul T. Camilletti. The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service – Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to USA Potter, "The Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006 contains a congressional finding that every instance of viewing child pornography represents a renewed violation of the privacy rights of the victims and a repetition of their abuse. The children who were depicted in the images were re-victimized when the pictures were viewed and shared. Child pornography is not a victimless crime."

- MORE -

PRESS RELEASE

Page 3

April 3, 2008

These cases were brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

- END -